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The present application has been made subject to a Restriction Requirement with a mailing date of June 27, 2006. In particular, claims 1-33 are pending in the present application, and the Examiner has required restriction to one of the following Groups under 35 U.S.C. §121:

- I. Claims 1 and 2, drawn to a rotary trimmer having end retainers.
- II. Claims 3-11, drawn to rotary trimmer having a cam driver and a spring urging the blade toward the cam.
- III. Claims 12-19, drawn to a rotary trimmer having means for rotating the shaft.
- IV. Claim 20, drawn to a rotary trimmer having a pusher and a spring urging the pusher and the plurality of blades towards the cam.
- V. Claims 22-32, drawn to a rotary trimmer having a knob rotatable to controllably position a selected one of the blades.
- VI. Claim 33, drawing to a rotary trimmer having at least 3 circular cutting blades in the housing.

The Office Action states that claim 21 is a linking claim linking all of the groups and will be examined with any of the elected groups.

Without acquiescing in the restriction or the assertions made in support thereof, Applicant hereby elects the claims of Group V (claims 22-32), with traverse.

Applicant respectfully submits that the above restriction requirement is unnecessary in this case. In particular, the Office Action admits that claim 21 is a linking claim, and is that this restriction requirement is merely contingent and is only effective IF claim 21 is not allowed. Currently, claim 21 is pending and has not been rejected, so such a contingent rejection is premature.

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Additionally, the Office Action recites that, "There is an excessive burden on the office to examine all of these inventions together as shown by their search." The search class examples provided for group I and group II reference searches within different subclasses of the same class, which by definition are related. No search criteria is recited for Groups III-VI other than a blanket statement that they would "require unique searches," so Applicant is unable to respond. Similarly, the Office Action states that each search would require a "unique text search", without elaboration, so Applicant is unable to respond. Applicant submits that this is insufficient justification for the restriction requirement.

In contrast, Applicant respectfully submits that it is entitled to examination of a reasonable number of related claims related to a rotary trimmer. For example, the alleged distinction recited for Group VI is that it recites "3 circular cutting blades." For comparison, claim 21 recites "a plurality of cutting blades." Applicant respectfully submits that examination of a claim which recites three blades is not an excessive burden when a claim reciting a plurality of blades is already being examined. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the restriction requirement.

Reconsideration of the present application as amended is respectfully requested. If there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by phone or otherwise, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned directly.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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